Minimum wage hike opposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president of the National Newspaper Association opposed Tuesday raising the minimum wage to $2.25 an hour on the basis it would contribute to the inflationary spiral."

Dick Westerfield, editor and publisher of the Fayette County Union in West Union, Iowa, also urged creation of a special exemption for teenagers to enable them to be employed at less than the minimum wage.

In other testimony before a Senate Labor and Public Welfare subcommittee, Wilbur Daniels, vice president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL-CIO, asked that the national minimum wage be raised in several steps from the present $1.60 to $2.50 an hour with equivalent adjustments applicable in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Ladies' Garment Workers' Union represents 435,000 members in 38 states and Puerto Rico.

Speaking for the newspaper association Westerfield also suggested retention of the existing exemption for newspapers under 4,000 circulation from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

About 6,617 weekly and small-city daily newspapers belong to the National Newspaper Association.

"While we find it extremely difficult to support increases in the minimum wage at this time," Westerfield said, "we find it equally difficult to oppose reasonable minimum wage increases."

He said that an immediate increase of 25 per cent over the current minimum wage would "further contribute to the inflationary spiral," and this would be "further compounded" if the legislation that came from congressional hearings called for an additional increase within one year to $2.25.

". . . We believe it is important that the minimum wage be kept at a minimum, and not be radically increased so as to have an adverse effect on employment in rural and sparsely populated areas where both living costs and wages are lower than they are in metropolitan areas and large industrial states," Westerfield stated.

He said the newspaper association believes that a lower minimum wage should be allowed for all persons under age 18 and for full-time students under 20.

"Most of our members find it impractical now to hire untrained young persons if they are required to pay them the same wages they would be required to pay trained adult employes," Westerfield said.

Unemployment rate increases in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government said Tuesday most of the nation's workers gained in pay and purchasing power last month somewhat softening the impact of the year's sharpest rise in living costs.

Average wages rose $(4.4) to $125.46 weekly, a 97 cents gain after allowance for rising prices.

But attacks on President Nixon's economic policies continued from labor leaders. Democrats and one Republican senator.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) called Nixon's policies a failure and said only a wage-price freeze could halt inflation.

Nixon's policies add up to miserable failure, said AFL-CIO President George Meany. Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington, considered a possible Democratic presidential contender said: "The administration cannot stand pat on shopworn economic theory while millions of Americans are looking for work."

The report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics said the average paycheck of some 45 million rank and file workers — more than half the nation's work force — were up $7.06 or 6 per cent from a year ago. But the rise was cut to $1.44 or 1.5 per cent above a year ago.

Purchasing power of the average paycheck still is 1.9 per cent below the high of September 1968, the report said.

The Labor Department reported also Monday that new claims for unemployment insurance and the total number of Americans receiving jobless pay rose substantially this month.

The nation's unemployment rate in May was 6.2 per cent of the work force totaling 4.2 million on an actual basis and 5.2 million on a seasonally adjusted basis. The jobless rate matched a nine year high.

Supreme Court finds for Nevada Countian

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The Arkansas Supreme Court Tuesday upheld a jury award of $23,000 to Julius N. DeLaughter Jr. of Nevada County, Arkansas.

The judgement was made concerning a suit for damages filed by DeLaughter for 30.66 acres of land taken by the Highway Commission for development of Interstate 30 in Nevada County. DeLaughter had won an earlier judgement and the Supreme Court concurred with that judgement.

Gremillion perjury trial set

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — Louisiana Atty. Gen. Jack Gremillion will go on trial Sept. 20 on charges he lied about his connections with the now-bankrupt Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge Fred J. Cassibry set the trial date Tuesday.

Gremillion faces five counts of perjury in connection with his testimony on Jan. 21, 1969, before a federal grand jury investigating LL&T operations.

Sharp named in civil suit

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — Frank W. Sharp, 65, convicted Houston financier whose troubles have reached to the highest levels of state government, was named in a civil suit filed Tuesday by a Houston bank.

The Fidelity Bank and Trust Co. sued Sharp in district court here over a Dec. 15, 1970, loan for $500,000 made to the Jesuit Fathers of Houston, Inc. The bank claimed Sharp signed a guarantee of payment on the note.

The suit says the note became payable Jan. 14, 1971, and the Jesuit Fathers failed to pay it.

The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a civil suit claimedthat Sharp used the Jesuit Fathers, who operate the Strake Jesuit Preparatory School here in his manipulations. They were not named as a defendant in the SEC suit.

The Jesuit Fathers have since sought shelter under federal bankruptcy laws, claiming they lost over $8 million by relying on Sharp's financial advice.

Sharp pleaded guilty earlier this month to two counts of violations of federal stock and banking regulations and was given a three-year probated sentence. He also agreed to testify as a government witness in return for further immunity from prosecution.

The SEC suit and supporting depositions filed in federal court in Dallas claimed that Sharp helped prominent state officials make quick profits on National Bankers Life stock at the same time the legislature was passing laws that would have exempted Sharp's Sharpstown State Bank — which has since folded — from regulation by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Among those named in the depositions were Gov. Preston Smith, state Democratic Chairman Dr. Elmer Baum, Speaker of the House Gus Mutscher, and Reps. W.W. Heatly of Paducah and Tommy Sahnnon of Fort Worth. They were not named as defendants in the SEC suit.

Abortion on 12-year-old provokes uproar

LONDON (AP) — The decision of a doctor to perform an abortion on a 12-year-old girl and give her birth control pills has provoked an uproar in Britain.

Members of Parliament are attacking and defending the decision. Church groups are holding meetings about it. Demands have been made that the attorney general prosecute the doctor, Mary Wilson, a Birmingham gynecologist.

The Social Services secretary faces demands for an inquiry into the 1967 Abortion Act. Scotland Yard detectives investigated abortion clinic reports. The British Medical Association (BMA) inquired into police questioning of abortion patients.

All the attention is focused on a shy, introverted girl named Brenda, who became pregnant. She had a 13-year-old boy friend.

Miss Jessie Muirhead, 17, a Bradford gynecologist, refused on June 4 to perform the abortion. Brenda and her mother went to Dr. Wilson, who performed the operation June 15.

And suddenly Britain, which ignored the 42 weekly operations on girls aged 15 and under in its clinics, its national health hospitals and private nursing homes, is taking a long look at sex and the nation's young.

Brenda is back reading her comic books in the kitchen of her government flat in Bradford.

"You can not expect a 12-year-old girl to carry a baby and look after it while going to school," says Brenda's mother.

If she had had to have a baby it would have been ruin for all of us.

Miss Muirhead refused to perform the abortion explaining: When I saw the girl she was about four months pregnant and I thought it unwise and unsafe to carry out a normal termination.

But Dr. Wilson stoutly defends her decision to abort Brenda's baby saying: Given the same circumstances I would do the same for any girl of 12. Dr. Wilson said Brenda was 14 weeks pregnant and added that the Calthorpe Clinic in Birmingham performs abortions as late as 15 weeks.

Part of the public storm is over whether 12-year-old patients should be given abortions under national health which is free.

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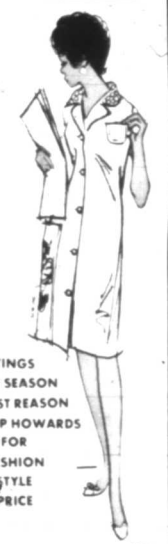
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